

HENRY A. JONES'S NEW PLAY

"WE CAN'T BE AS BAD AS ALL THAT" PRESENTED.

Henry A. Jones's new play, "We Can't Be As Bad As All That," is presented at the Metropolitan Opera House.

The play is a comedy in three acts, and is a sequel to the play "The Middleman."

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4½% INVESTMENTS

During the past 18 years we have furnished to investors guaranteed first mortgage investments amounting to more than \$400,000,000, and no one of them has ever lost a dollar.

Our Guaranteed First Mortgage Certificates give you the opportunity to invest \$10. per month regularly or you can buy a \$200., \$500., \$1000. or \$5000. certificate or any number of them.

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Capital and Surplus, \$15,000,000
175 Wall St., N.Y. 175 Nassau St., Bklyn
350 Fulton St., Jamaica

OPERA CONTRACTS RENEWED.
Gatti-Casazza and Toscanini Engaged to Manage Things Next Year.

This city is evidently to enjoy another season of operatic quietude since the Metropolitan Opera Company has been engaged to conduct the affairs of the Metropolitan Opera Company for another season.

These two directors, Gatti-Casazza and Toscanini, have been engaged to conduct the affairs of the Metropolitan Opera Company for another season.

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CHAT OF HOTEL CORRIDORS

LYMAN J. GAGE ON COUNTRY'S BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

Lyman J. Gage, Secretary of the Treasury, is expected to make a statement on the country's business outlook.

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RESTAURANT JAM TO-NIGHT

Elaborate Preparations That Have Been Made for Seeing the New Year In.

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GUSTAV H. SCHWAB RECOVERED

RETURNS TO TOWN ON HIS WAY TO MIAMI, FLORIDA.

Impressed With Growth of the City in His Ten Months Absence—Talks on the Montmartre Point "Bugaboo"—Steamship Business's Future in This Port.

Gustav H. Schwab, who gave up business suddenly last spring owing to a nervous breakdown and who has since been absent from the numerous commercial and civic activities in which he has long been a leading figure, arrived in New York yesterday from his country place at Scarborough, N. Y., and left during the afternoon for Miami, Fla., where he will spend the winter.

Mr. Schwab expects to return to New York in the spring and actively resume his duties as head of the general agency for the North German Lloyd Line and of an exporting house.

Mr. Schwab has been at Scarborough for some time, following a long rest. He has been taking an abundance of exercise, has gained weight since last spring and looks very well, but his family will not think of his tackling his business again until he has been away for a full year.

In his absence from New York, however, Mr. Schwab has kept with what has been going on, and he says the only way for a man to appreciate the speed with which New York is going ahead is to stay away from it for a few months and then take a look.

"I do not suppose the average busy man of New York ever stops to think how fast the city changes," said Mr. Schwab yesterday. "In the almost ten months I have been away those who have been in New York have seen the new Pennsylvania station opened, which has now become such a matter of course that New Yorkers wonder how they ever did without it. Then the Greer Square station of the Hudson River tubes has brought the heart of the city nearer Hoboken and metropolitan New Jersey. The old Grand Central Station has almost completely disappeared. The Public Library has advanced a considerable stage toward completion, and new buildings have sprung up everywhere, hotels, office buildings, warehouses—in fact it takes only a few minutes nowadays to make a Rip Van Winkle."

"I have been somewhat amused at the revival of a fear about the Montmartre Point bugaboo, with which the port of New York has been threatened before now. In my opinion it is only a bugaboo. It will be some time before people who come from Europe will want to be landed at the eastern end of Long Island instead of at the port of New York itself. I notice that the War Department has refused to permit some of the North River piers to be lengthened to permit the docking of bigger ships than those now plying across the Atlantic. I imagine this is due to fear on the part of the Department that if it permitted hundreds of feet to be added to a pier in any one instance there would within a few years be a request for adding another hundred feet to the pier, and the result would be a continual narrowing of the waterway concomitant with a lengthening of ships until there would not be room to turn around."

Mr. Schwab's opinion of the speed limit of ships has been reached for several years for the reason that to get even one knot of increased speed requires not only an enormous expenditure of money, but also means enormous increase in the cost of operation. But of course the size of ships is likely to keep on increasing, and the result will be that a regular service of fast express steamers, with one leaving each side of the Atlantic every week, would be ideal.

At the same time there have been other ideas which have also proved right in practice and which Mr. Schwab expects to continue to be long as the traveling public keeps growing and different people will approve different plans for our slower and smaller boats, and the big new ships of Washington do their share of business.

"Of course the growth of commercial relations between this country and those of Europe has increased considerably since travel across the Atlantic for the number of buyers and sellers who travel from one side to the other increases every year. Compared to the increase in the number of persons who travel for pleasure. Within the last twenty-five years Americans have made the greatest number of trips to the world, and the records for this year show that more Americans have traveled than ever before. The Mediterranean has become a great thoroughfare, and once looked upon as a negligible quantity, has grown until with every company engaged in it it is a very important consideration. The great increase in the number of passengers has required during the last few years the service of fast new steamships. At present the outlook is for an exceptionally large cabin passenger business to Europe next year."

"Rigoletto" at the Opera.

Dimitri Smirnov, a Russian Tenor, Makes His Debut.

Verdi's "Rigoletto" was sung at the Metropolitan Opera House last night. The performance was one to arouse many questionings in the mind, but perhaps it was wiser to allow them to sink to rest without taking definite shape. But one thing was suggested so forcibly by the representation that something must be said about the repetitions of the old lyrics which were used to serve a purpose, that of giving opportunities to the singers skilled in the time honored art of bel canto. But it could not be said in extension of last night's performance that any such opportunity was offered.

What the opera did was to reveal a general and depressing want of acquaintance with the correct style of delivering the music in this want the most important singer of the evening, Mr. Amato, was painfully conspicuous, especially in his delivery of the soliloquy in act II. This he mumbled and declaimed in a manner quite out of keeping with the style in which the dramatic music was composed. His singing of the duet with Gilda was not free from similar faults. His impersonation had dramatic significance.

Verdi's "Rigoletto" came over from Boston to sing Gilda in a pretty, girlish voice not always on the pitch and with some original and startling bits of phrasing. Dimitri Smirnov, a new Russian tenor, made his debut as the wicked Duke. He was white and last night seemed to be without much carrying power or resonance. He sang his music respectfully, but without much carrying power or resonance.

Bank Robbed of Every Cent It Had.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 30.—The State Bank of New Palestine, fourteen miles southeast of Indianapolis, was robbed last night of \$6,000 in cash. The door of the bank was opened with a skeleton key, and the robbers, who were armed with revolvers, made off with the money.

Senator Wagner Reaches Albany.

ALBANY, Dec. 30.—Senator Robert M. Wagner reached Albany to-night. He said that he had come up to attend the inauguration on Monday and the inauguration of the Senate on Wednesday. Senator Wagner refused to discuss the question of the majority leadership in the Senate.

DINNER TO HUMPERDINK

Musicians and Critics Honor the Composer of the "Koenigslander."

More than 200 musicians and critics, the "Bohemians" and their guests attended a dinner last night at the Hotel Astor and congratulated Prof. Engelbert Humperdinck on the success of his latest opera, the "Koenigslander."

Prof. Humperdinck complimented the Metropolitan management on the way his opera was put on and the singers who assisted him in its production. He noted, he said, the great progress in musical lines that had been made here since his previous visit five years ago and believed that the time was near when the Metropolitan Opera House would be the "metropole of all the opera houses of the world."

One long table in the center of the room was reserved for the Schaffha Society and Karl Jörn, who, although he did not figure in the first production of the opera, was present to sing the score in English when it was the purpose to first produce the piece in that language, sat at the head. He and Otto Gortz and Albert Reiss, who sang the singers of the evening, Herman Jadowitz, who sang the role of the King's son, was unable to be present. Besides Prof. Humperdinck, Walter Damrosch spoke for the musicians and Henry Krueger, Henry Link, Dr. Max Halpern and Dr. Morris Blaumenfeld, a correspondent for German papers, answered for the critics. Otto Gortz, Albert Reiss, Baron Paul Vietinghoff, J. W. Cassell, Max Thompson, Richard Arnold, Max Spiering, Raphael Josephy and Leo Schall.

Among those at the dinner were Franz Kneisel, Ka. Jörn, Oscar Toscanini, Alfred Hertz, Walter Damrosch, Paolo Gallico, Sigmund Herzog, Victor Herbert, Frank Damrosch, Arnold Volpe, Dr. Paul Vietinghoff, J. W. Cassell, Baron Paul Vietinghoff, J. W. Cassell, Max Thompson, Richard Arnold, Max Spiering, Raphael Josephy and Leo Schall.

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